

File: F\_H\_V\_Hester\_1893\_06\_12.doc

Transcribed 25 March 2013 by IB from a scan provided by Ian Bracher, typed 28 March 2013

Note: the MS of the letter is damaged, particularly at the edges, and some words are only partially legible.

Frederick Henry Valentine Hester to Fanny Jones, 12 June 1893

[?Big] Hill

June 12<sup>th</sup> 1893

My dear Fanny

I received a letter from you a short time ago & you mention that Robert intended writing, but I have not received it as yet, I am still hard at work at my contract I am well into the last [?section] & shall finish in about two months from [?date] I was in Roebourne a few days ago & had a long [?chat] with Uncle Shake, [?but] he could give me no fresh information, except that he found entered in his day book the name of the man Little & his address, the [?same] as he sent me, & I forwarded on to you, there is no doubt that there is property in England that some of [?the] Hesters are intitled to but how to get it is the ? at any rate [?in] my present posission [sic] I can't do much in [?the] matter, as it takes [---] all their time to make a living, & lucky to [?be] able to do that.

I have had an offer of the lease of a rather good farm, unstocked, except 800 sheep, to be taken over [?4 Jan] next or to go on it as manager the place is near Northam. Northam is near York & I think if I can make enough to buy a few cattle & horses & other nessity [sic] things such as a [?waggon] & tools out of this job [?I had] better go & settle [?there] farming, for I [?am] sick of my present [?way] of life, no home of my own & the like [?I have] no doubt that there money in this country in its mineral wealth but a man might follow it all his life & get [?nothing] for his pains. I [?am sending] you [?four] specimens of different stones belonging to this district, I think you will like them, if any of them are of value or the locality worth prospecting I know where they came from, I have also sent [---] through F Stevenson samples for assay if there was silver [---] that stuff it could be worked [?cheap] as [?it is] within 6 miles of a [?railway] station. The smallpox scare is dieing out now, at one time matters looked rather serious, I got vaccanated [sic] when [?in town] I felt a bit bad for about a week but am alright now the death rate

amongst the unvaccanated was very heavy, but those that had been done laity *all* recovered, which is rough on antivaccanationers It strikes me Kate would have been in a hurry to have the youngsters done if she had been here remember me to Kate & the children when you see them I often think of the little girls, [?out] here ?in] my loneliness, I have not heard from George for a good while Well dear Fanny I must conclude with love to Aunt & Robert I remain your affect cousin

F H V Hester